A NARATIVE

of some of the

SUFFERINGS

of

J. P.

in the

CITY

of

ROME.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

A Narative of some of the Sufferings of *J. P.* in the City of *Rome*.

It is moved in my Soul to leave a remembrance unto all Generations of my succeeding Seed, of the mercies of God unto me in the dayes of my Captivity and sore distresse in the City of Rome, *that they all which may live in the feeling of the Power of the Spirit of Salvation, may taste of the secret streams of the thanks-giving and praises of my poor soul yeilded and offered unto my Maker, my compassionate God and my King, and in their true sence of the same rejoyce also in the spirit of praise, which liveth without end, Amen.*

WHen I was cast into Prison, because I loved the Souls of mine enemies; when I was separated like *Joseph* from all my Brethren, and oppressed in a strange Land; when I was left like a poor *silly Dove* without a mate; when I was despightfully, ignominiously and approbriously contemned, scorned and mocked of all men, both Priests and People that came to view me in my misery; when I was extreamly abased in all things which bore the shew of helps unto me; When I was held in Irons untill one of my limbes failed me; When I was divers times cruelly tortured and tormented in my weak fleshly body; When I was tempted with Wine and with

Women, and with meats, much, little, and none, with riches and honour, and with all delights and pleasures that ever my heart might desire; When I was threated with gally-slavery, with tortures on the soales of my feet, with death by fire, and also subtilly by poyson; When I was thus and unspeakably more proved by flatteries, threats and tortures, to turn from the Lord my God unto a Graven Image; when the hunters night and day hunted me like a forsaken Partridge in the barren Grounds, and like an alone Quail in the stubble fields; when I was as a *Wren* in a bush of Thornes, and the Eagles watched to teare me; when Wolves howled to prey upon me by night, and Lions most terribly roared to destroy me day after day; when the Seas raged on every side, and floods of the deeps heaped themselves like immoveable Mountains upon my back; when the wrath of Hell gaped as a gulf to swallow me in her belly of envy; when nets of Iron were spread about my habitation, and snares of steel set compassing my dwelling; when Serpents creeped over my body, and frogs danced on my face, when Scorpions ran over my head, and Dragons spat fire in my face, when the Spirits of infernal places encamped about me, and sirrounded me with their dreadful flames; when they pierced me as with Speares in my side, and that I daily felt their malice like the pains of arrows stuck fast in my heart; when they strove to slay me with vexation, and to murder me with the tolments of oppression; when they spued out their venome night and day in vileness of words against me, with bitterness of

cursing

curſing in their mouths, and abominable oaths and blaſphemies againſt the Righteous God of my Salvation; when they rejoyced and took pleaſure to oppreſſe my righteous ſoul with oaths, and ſought to vex me with numberleſs lies; when by their numberleſs unheard of wickedneſſes they laboured to make me languiſh in ſorrow and periſh in extream miſery; when their Spirits came upon me in the night ſeaſon, and often almoſt ſtrangled me to death in my ſleep; Then had I dreadful Viſions by day, and moſt terrible dreams by night; then was my ſoul in a Sea of ſorrows, and in an immence Ocean of miſeries; then was my bread Affliction and my drink extream Tribulation; then did I water my Couch with my tears, and ſowed them as ſeed on the ground; For then the Mountains did preſs me down with their weights, and rocks did even cruſh me to pieces; then did I make ſobbs as an eaſe to my ſoul, and ſuſtained my ſelf with the grievouſneſs of groanes; then were ſighings as a ſpouſe in my bed, and tears as my ſolace with her; And oh then did I cry unto my God and poured out my complaints before him; I wreſtled with his Angel night and day, and caſt the Rivers of my bleedings on his Altar; And then he ſhewed me *the ſorrows of his Seed in the Earth, and the oppreſſion of his righteous life by all the Nations thereof*; And though I could but diſcern the leaſt part thereof, yet it was infinitely *more then my ſufferings*; and then he made me put my neck to the yoake thereof, and my back to its heavy burthens, ſo that pangs were added to my paines, and mourning multiplied to my miſeries, which made me roare

for

for the revelation of mercies, dropping my tears under the *Cherubim* winges of his eternal compassions, and stood before him in the nakedness of my innocency, and in the simplicity of patience and content; for he stripped me as bare as I was born, and then his righteous eye saw that I murmered not against him in all my Tribulations, but cal'd all things good from his hand, and gave thanks to him for all my sufferings, as I did for my daily bread.

So it came to pass in his time that he remembred me his bruised Babe, and had compassion on me his wounded worm, and moved in his jealousie for me, whose righteous and pittiful Soul could not alwaies bear the grief of my sorrows, without streching out his hand to help me, because he saw that without him, I was as a helpless Lamb among Lyons; And therefore he passed in a secret dread through Hell, and brake the bars of her gates, he cut a path through the Clouds of her blackness, and divided a way through her burnings; he scattered Mountains like dust with a whirlewind, and dispersed Hills like the chaff of the summer threshing floore; he made the raging seas as smooth as oyl, and the blustering storms as the gentle North-wind; he clave the craggy Rocks asunder, and made an easie path through the drowning deeps; for that he had pity on my broken heart, and most lamentable bleeding soul, knowing that I sought not Riches nor Honour, but the Remission of the sins and the Salvation of the poor Souls of mine enemies; nay, I desired not any thing in Heaven or Earth, besides the glory and praise of his eternall holy

holy Name, and knew the Innocency of my ſimple Soul which cannot touch a worme to deſtroy it, and ſaw the openneſs of my heart of love, which can laydown my life for the very vileſt of all my oppreſſors; wherefore he ſmote on the brazen earth, and tore down the bulwarks of her ſtrength, and then he lifted up my head above the deeps, and ſet my feet upon the Tower of his ſtrength, and made my meekneſs as the Arrows of his quiver, and my patience as Spears of the battle, and ſent my Shafts among Armies, and diſperſed their camps as ſmoak; and hoſts that were as ſtrong as ſteele he made become as towe before the breath of my mouth; who formed my noſtrils as a bellowes, and my mouth as a flaming Furnace; So he gave me the Standerd of the battle, and put the Enſigne of victory in my hand, who inſtead of fear gave me wonderful courage, and inſtead of weakneſs, ſtrength and valour, and took pleaſure to viſit me with mercies and with comfortable promiſes of Life; *Yea in the time of my ſore diſtreſs at midnight he appeared at my Priſon window in a flame of Fire, which my fleſhly eyes beheld, and then he ſmote upon the Iron bars thereof, which my fleſhly ears did hear; So then I remembred him (in the ſpirit) that he was my God, and that he watched over me in the dayes of my affliction*; moreover when my foes did oppreſs me, *He roared with Thunders in the City, which made the houſes and their foundations to tremble as a leaf, and made mine enemies to cry with fear, and then as I was laid down in my Priſon, with mine eye on the chain of my leg, he caſt in a barre of fire, in manner and bigneſs of a Javelin, which ſmote upon the end thereof which was faſtened to a Ring in the Wall, by which he ſhewed me his*

might

might, and the wonderfulneſs of his glorious Power, and by the ſame did ſeal unto me his Covenant; for he ſwore unto me *by his life* that he would break my bonds aſſunder, and gave me Teſtimony upon Teſtimony of his faithfulneſs; *And in the dayes of my miſery he humbled himſelf as if he were lower then the Son of man, and came down and ſpake to me as a man doth ſpeak with his friend, and ſo took delight to break my heart aſſunder, that he might bind me up in his boſome of pleaſure*; He divers times plainly told me ſaying, *fear not worm* Jacob, *for I am thy God, no Inchantment ſhall ever prevail againſt thee, no weapon formed againſt thee ſhall proſper*; Beſides he carried me through *deep places* where he diſcovered unto me *many wonders*, yea, and ſhewed me things *too wonderful* for me; Ah the glory, the glory, the marvellous glory of his wonderful works my weakneſs can never declare, neither can I utter the proportion of his raviſhing joyes whereof he made me to drink at the Fountain in abundance.

And when he had proved me by manifold waies, much more then any mortal man could imagine, and ſeeing that in my ſorrows I forſook him not, but grew nearer and nearer into him, and in my joyes I ſwelled not above him, but more and more feared and trembled that I might live alwaies humble beneath him, and his tender pitties taking upon him the ſoreneſs of the ſufferings of my poor earthly Tabernacle; at laſt through the way that he had broken, through the hard places reached me with the bowels of his ſervants, and with the prophecyes of many of his people, who ſpake in the one Spirit unto me the very things which he covenanted unto me in the time of my extream miſery, which

which was as a ſeven-fold Seal in my ſoul, confirming his Teſtimonies unto me; and then he raiſed up his little babe my dear Brother *Thomas Hart* to ſet his tender ſoul nearer unto my ſufferings, and made him take my burthen on his back, and the yoak of my Tribulation on his neck, and made him ſup of my ſore ſorrows and drink of the bleedings of my grief; and in the eternal bowels of his loving kindneſs and mercies, made him attend me with conſtant conſolations and with renewed comforts of his life; yea he made him unto me as the compaſſions of a Father to his Child, and as the bowels of a Mother to her babe, who took it as the delight of his heart to ſend ſwiftly unto me the *refreſhing ſtreams* of my Brethren and Siſters *brookes*; Ah he was as dayly bread to my hunger, and as the beſt wine to my thirſt; yea the moſt high God made him as the *dews of Heaven* on my locks, and as the *drops of the clouds* on my ſkirts, who over took me with a Sea of his love, and ſwallowed me in the deeps of his affection, ſo that he was a joy to me in my tedious bonds, and gladneſſe unto me whileſt I was grieved of mine enemies, and ſtill he counted the moſt of his love too little, and the weight of his affection as a thing too light in the ballance, whoſe bowels did break me aſſunder, and the flames of his love melted me into many ſtreams. Moreover the everlaſting mercies of my God did ſtir up the bowels of other two of his tender babes, named in the tent, *Jane Stokes* and *Charles Baylie* to come to viſit me whileſt I was as forſaken of all men, who in the uprightneſs of their hearts and perfect faith in my God of wonders, came travelling through land towards me, bruiſed in their righteous ſouls in abſtinence and faſting, in weakneſs and ſore pains, yet ſpared not their bodies to the utmoſt, but in the faith perſevered

in their pilgrimage untill they arrived to *Rome*, where *C. B.* offered his life to ransome me, and both of them entered into captivity for the love which they bore to my life; and *Charles* wore the Irons of my bonds in fastings and sore sufferings, which melted my heart like wax, and made me drop down the tears of mine eyes, which pretious visitations of my Fathers eternal love manifested unto me in tender compassions through the yerning bowels of these his beloved babes must never be forgotten of me, but remembred of me in a soul abounding with thansgiving and spirit of praise of the most high; yea for these and all his unspeakable favours I will laud, praise, honour, renown and magnify his holy Name and power for ever and ever, Amen: For his mercies are over all his works, and his compassions are without bounds or measure; and in the belly of a continual broken heart desire I to dwel, where I may evermore honour my God with my tears; for oh, oh, I am overcome, I am overcome of his infinite mercies towards me.

And this I leave for posterities and generations following, that my seeds seed and its seeding seed may know the love wherewith my God hath loved me, both in himself and in the bowels of these his babes, yea let the record of it be had in *Israel* unto the end of dayes and time to the glory of the God of my salvation, and and let the day of the birth of these innocent Lambs be had in memory of blessing in the hearts of *Sions* Seed for ever, whom the Lord God of my life made like so many long lines of his unsearchable loving kindness which reached me in the deeps of my bitter calamities, and in the lamentable daies of my languishings. Oh blessed, blessed, blessed, praised and magnified be the God of my salvation, even for ever and ever, Amen.

Written in Rome Prison of Madmen. JOHN.

The third of the sixth Month, 1661.

From the Common Goal in Burkdou *in* France, *about thirty leagues from* Dover, *where I am a sufferer for speaking the Word of the Lord to two Priests, saying,* All Idols, all Idolatries and all Idol Priests must perish.

DEarly beloved, as the streames of an endless Fountain this goes through me, which causeth my banks to over-flow plentifully with the pleasant and delightful fruits of love, which gently streams and flows towards thee my Sister and my Brother; but as thou art my elder in my Fathers house, in the time of the exercise of thy strength didst freely minister to my weakness, which can never be forgotten by me, though I am at present, and have several times (since I saw thy face) been shut up in strong prisons, yet it hath not nor cannot blot out the remembrance of thee from me; For I can truly say in the fear of my Father, thou art as an engraven Adamant within my heart, and though through the natural I may speak this, it is because I feel thee in the eternal, *I* feel thee in the immortal, I feel thee in the unchangable, which was before the changable was, or shadows of turning were; my heart is exceeding full in me towards thee, unexpressable, undeclarable doth my measure flow towards thee; Therefore feel, feel me, and there only where *I* may be felt receive me, and as thou dost feel me, so let me be received and accepted in thy tender bosome.

And now it is in my heart to shew thee in brief somthing of the service *I* have had since *I* saw thy face, though it was not a little desired by me when I returned from *G. F.* but I being drawn in my life towards *London*, and my former service lay much before me, I

chooſed the Seas, and it was ſo with me, that I was much preſſed in my ſpirit to paſs away; And when I came to *London* I found in my life I might have ſtayed ſome time longer there then I did, but fearing leaſt it might be an offence to any, I took my leave of Friends and paſſed away towards *Dover*, and it being wholly in my heart to do the will of my God whatſoever I ſuffered, and after I had ſome ſervice for the Lord in *Dover*, which was well accepted of him, I took alſo my leave of friends at *Dover* and imbarqued my ſelf for *Calis*, yet at that very inſtant I felt ſomething in my life againſt going at that time; yet for my aforeſaid reaſon I paſſed away, and after my arrival at *Calis* the Lord would not permit me to go forward, but by a mighty power was conſtrained to return back to *Dover*; It was alſo ſhewed me ſomthing of a woman going with me, to which I was conſtrained to conſent, and returned to *Dover*, though it was in great croſſe, yet the power of the Almighty was with me, and I had not liberty to leave that Town; and after about a month waiting, there came a dear ſervant of the moſt high God, whoſe name according to the world is *Jane Stakes*, who was commanded of the Lord for to go to the place where *John Perrot* was, and immediately ſo ſoon as ſhe arrived in the meeting in *Dover*, I was ſhewed that ſhe was to go over the Seas before I ſpoke one word to her; and ſuddenly after, I was like a man releaſed out of Priſon and had perfect freedom to paſs away, which accordingly I did; and in relation to this Voyage I ſhall tell thee how it was with me before I returned into *England* the firſt time, For the Lord did ſhew it me before *I* came to *Paris* the firſt time, Therefore *I* writ it in my letter to thee, which *I* left with *Anthony Holder*, ſaying that *I* am given up if

to

to *Rome*; So the ſame day my dear companion came, *I* paſſed away and ſet forwards towards *Paris* as aforeſaid, it being the ſame way we were both ſhewed we ſhould paſs before we ſaw one anothers faces, and arriving at *Paris* I was drawn in my life to the Proteſtants meeting which *I* formerly told thee of, but there was much enmity againſt me, ſo that *I* had not the ſervice *I* might have had at that time; but we being both drawn in our lives to paſs away onwards of our Journey towards *Rome*, we ſoon ſet forwards in the good will of the Lord, whoſe preſence was wonderfully with us; for truly as the dews diſtills morning by morning upon the tender graſs, ſo did bleſſing and mercy diſtill upon our tender ſouls, ſo that we were kept over all fears, as we kept in the fear of our God, and as in his dread we walked, our enemies were dreaded before us, for we paſſed thorow the Nation of *France* without any moleſtation or trouble, and coming to *Marcellis* (from whence *I* ſent thee a Letter,) we embarqued for *Ginova*, not having oppertunity for *Legorn*, as *I* did purpoſe; and after ſome 15 dayes to and fro with ſore ſtorms we arrived ſafe to our Port, and from thence we took our Journey by Land to *Legorn*, the Lord preſerving us thorow many mountains and dangerous places, and arriving at *Legorn*, we had not of monies the value of an *Engliſh* penny left to buy us a little bread; But the Lord had not left us, but was near us in the time of need, and ordered it ſo that we wanted not a piece of bread; For though it was near night when we arrived, we met with a dear friend called *William Ward*, maſter of a Veſſel, who received us with gladneſs of heart, he having other two friends with him who were alſo Sea-men, and after we had ſtayed ſome time with them, and being refreſhed one

in.

in another, we took our leaves, taking courage as *Paul* did in his voyage to *Rome*, after he had seen the Brethren; and arriving safe at *Rome* we were drawn in our lives directly to the place where the dearly beloved *J. P.* was, and coming to the Prison door, I enquired for him, and having answer of his being there, *I* desired for to speak with him, but it would not be permitted us; So it was said in me *write unto him*, which *I* did, the which he answered us in the fulness of love, which refreshed us after our weary steps; For our souls were refreshed one in another, though one anothers faces we had never seen to the outward, and then we being kept in a holy fear not to do nor act one way nor other, but as we were moved of the Lord, least we should add to his bonds, *I* say being thus kept we were delivered out of the snare of the fowler, who secretly lay in wait to betray our innocency; And after a little time the Lord shewed me *I* should go to the inquisition, which *I* did, and enquired for the *Inquisitor* as *I* was shewed of the Lord *I* should do; And when *I* spoke to him, *I* told him *I was come from England for to see my Brother J. P.* to which he answered, *I should see him*, and appointed me to come to a certain place called *Minerva*, and there saith he, *I will procure you liberty of the Cardinalls to see him*; he had me also to the *Inquisition* office, where he asked many questions of me concerning our Religion, to which *I* answered in the simplicity of my heart in the fear of the Lord; and at the appointed time *I* came to the place aforesaid, and there *I* was shewed what further *I* should do, which was to tender my body for my Brother, and so from that time *I* hardly missed opportunity to speak to them as often as they met, for their manner was thus to meet twice a week, the one time at *Minerva*, and the other time

time at *Monte Cavallo* where the Popes own dwelling is, where I also did the like, more then once, which stirred them up against me, in great enmity; And truly I was perswaded both by Jews and others, to save our selves, their enmity grew so much against us, at last they would not suffer us to give in a paper at the door to our dear Brother, after some time passed; and after that the Lord required me to go to the Jews Synagogue, where I had been several times before, and declared glad tidings to them from the mouth of the Lord; and after that I had been but a little time amongst them, the word of the Lord came to me saying, *thou shalt be taken at Minerva, and whereas it is commonly reported in this place, that* John Luffe *starved himself to death, thou shalt fast for a Testimony against them*, for it was so they had often cast his death upon me, saying he fasted 19 dayes, and the 20th day he died, wch thing grieved me many times; And it came to pass according to the word of Lord, I was taken 19 dayes after at the said place where the Lord told me I should, and from thence I was carried to the Inquisition, where I was shut up close, and after I had been there 3 dayes, the Lord said to me *Thou must go to the Pazzarella* which was the Prison or Hospital of mad men, where our dear Brother was prisoner; and it was also said unto me, *thou shalt also speak to the Pope*; And at the 17 dayes end, I was led from the Inquisition towards the other Prison, and by the way I met the Pope carried in great pomp, as it was the good will of the Lord that I should speak unto him, men could not prevent it, for I met him towards the foot of a bridge, where I was something nigh him, and when he came against me, the people being on their knees on each side of him, I cried to him with a loud voyce in the *Italian* tongue

tongue *To do the thing that was Just, and to release the Innocent*, and whilest *I* was speaking, the man which led me had not power to take me away untill *I* had done, and then he had me to prison, where my endeared Brother was, where *I* fasted about 20 dayes as a witness against that bloody Generation; For in my fast the Lord shewed me what they had done with *John Luffe* that true and faithful servant of his, for he shewed me they had destroyed him. Now in the time of my fasting, it could not be perceived by any outward appearance that *I* did fast, as many of themselves did confess that *I* looked better then when *I* did eat, and truly *I* cannot say that my flesh did decay at all, *I* was strengthened often times by the good word of the Lord which he spake thorow his faithful suffering Lambs to me, in the time that we had liberty to write one to the other; my dear Sister being brought from the Inquisition, where she was retained from the time I was brought from thence, and from thence was brought to the same Prison where we were; and soon after my fast the Lord by an out-streched arm wrought our deliverance, being condemned to perpetual gally-slavery, if ever we returned again unto *Rome*.

CHARLES BAYLY.

My Soul praise thou the Lord in all his marvellous good works, yea magnifie thou the Name of thy God, beholding the powerful works of his own right hand, and partaking of his everlasting compassions, love and immeasurable mercies; Ah blessed, blessed, blessed, praised, magnified and honoured be the Name of the Lord the most high God, even for ever and ever Amen.

JOHN.

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THE END.

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